



Report to the Chairman, Subcommittee
on the Middle East and North Africa,
Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of
Representatives

March 2013

SECURITY ASSISTANCE

Evaluations Needed to Determine Effectiveness of U.S. Aid to Lebanon's Security Forces



Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE MAR 2013		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2013 to 00-00-2013	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Security Assistance: Evaluations Needed to Determine Effectiveness of U.S. Aid to Lebanon's Security Forces				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Government Accountability Office, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC, 20548				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 47	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

Highlights of [GAO-13-289](#), a report to the Chairman, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives

Why GAO Did This Study

Following Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon in 2005 and war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, U.S. agencies increased their allocations of security assistance for Lebanon from \$3 million in 2005 to about \$28 million in 2006. This assistance included training and equipment funded and implemented by State or DOD for the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces of Lebanon. However, questions remain regarding the effectiveness of security assistance as a tool of U.S. policy in Lebanon, including concerns about the influence of foreign actors, primarily Syria and Iran, and extremist militant groups operating in Lebanon.

GAO was asked to review U.S. security assistance to Lebanon. GAO's review, covering fiscal years 2007 through 2012, assessed the extent to which the U.S. government (1) adjusted its strategic goals and security assistance programs in Lebanon, (2) funded assistance programs for Lebanese security forces, and (3) evaluated the effectiveness of security assistance programs in Lebanon. GAO reviewed budgetary data and planning documents and interviewed U.S. and Lebanese government officials in Washington, D.C.; Tampa, Florida; and Beirut, Lebanon.

What GAO Recommends

State and DOD should complete plans with milestone dates to evaluate security assistance programs in Lebanon and develop better performance indicators to facilitate evaluation. State and DOD concurred.

View [GAO-13-289](#). For more information, contact Charles Michael Johnson, Jr. at (202) 512-7331 or johnsoncm@gao.gov.

March 2013

SECURITY ASSISTANCE

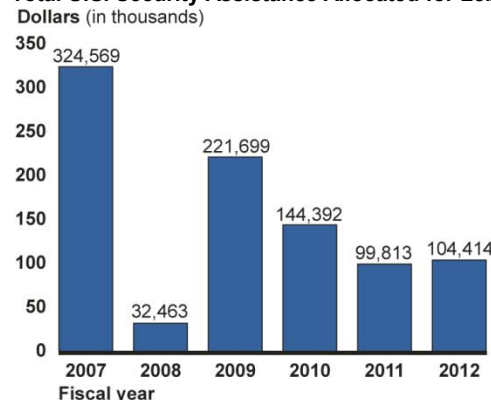
Evaluations Needed to Determine Effectiveness of U.S. Aid to Lebanon's Security Forces

What GAO Found

The United States has kept strategic goals for Lebanon constant since 2007 and adjusted security assistance in response to political and security conditions. Since 2007, U.S. strategic goals for Lebanon have been to support the nation as a stable, secure, and independent democracy. According to U.S. officials, U.S. policy priorities include supporting the Government of Lebanon in establishing stability and security against internal threats from militant extremists and the influence of Iran and Syria. U.S. programs to help achieve these priorities include Foreign Military Financing, International Military Education and Training (IMET), International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE), Antiterrorism Assistance, Counterterrorism Financing, Export Control and Related Border Security, and Section 1206 and 1207 authorities. While strategic goals have not changed, program implementation has changed to meet conditions on the ground, according to U.S. officials. For example, the Department of State (State) delayed committing Foreign Military Financing funds to Lebanon for 3 months in 2010, following an exchange of fire between the Lebanese Armed Forces and Israeli forces.

U.S. agencies allocated over \$925 million for security assistance programs for Lebanon from fiscal years 2007 through 2012; State has disbursed and the Department of Defense (DOD) has committed the majority of the funds.

Total U.S. Security Assistance Allocated for Lebanon, Fiscal Years 2007-2012



Source: GAO analysis of State data.

To date, State has evaluated only one of its security assistance programs for Lebanon, the INCLE program; neither State nor DOD has completed plans or established time frames to evaluate the other programs. State's evaluation policy requires that certain programs be evaluated periodically. Without such evaluations, State and DOD have little objective evidence to show that the programs have been effective or what the proper mix of programs should be. Evaluations can be facilitated through appropriate performance measurement. However, GAO and other agencies have previously reported deficiencies in how agencies measure program performance. For example, GAO found in 2011 that the IMET program evaluation efforts had few of the elements commonly accepted as appropriate for measuring performance. State and DOD are undertaking efforts to develop better performance indicators.

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Abbreviations

DFAS	Defense Financing and Accounting Service
DOD	Department of Defense
DSCA	Defense Security Cooperation Agency
EXBS	Export Control and Related Border Security
IMET	International Military Education and Training
INCLE	International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement
ISF	Internal Security Forces
LAF	Lebanese Armed Forces
NADR	Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related programs
State	Department of State

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United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

March 19, 2013

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives

Dear Madam Chairman:

Lebanon is a religiously diverse country transitioning toward independence and democratic consolidation after a 15-year civil war and subsequent occupation by Syrian and Israeli forces. Lebanon is home to the militant group Hezbollah, which is also a member of the Lebanese government. Following Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon in 2005 and the war between Israel and Hezbollah in the summer of 2006, the United States significantly increased assistance for Lebanon, for the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and Internal Security Forces (ISF). In 2005, U.S. agencies allocated about \$3 million in U.S. security assistance for Lebanon but the next year allocated almost \$28 million in security assistance.¹ In 2010, the LAF fired on Israeli Defense Forces along Lebanon's and Israel's shared border. A member of Congress raised concerns about U.S. assistance to Lebanon in the wake of this clash.

In response to your request that we review U.S. security assistance to Lebanon, we assessed the extent to which the U.S. government, from fiscal years 2007 through 2012, (1) adjusted its strategic goals and security assistance programs in Lebanon, (2) funded assistance programs for Lebanese security forces, and (3) evaluated the effectiveness of security assistance programs in Lebanon. To address these objectives, we analyzed Department of State (State) and Department of Defense (DOD) documents, such as the Mission Strategic

¹According to State and DOD officials, there is no consensus about whether some funding accounts that support security cooperation or security sector reform should be labeled "assistance." For the purposes of this report, however, we consider those accounts that funded overt security-related activities in Lebanon to be security assistance. Specifically, these funding accounts include Foreign Military Financing; International Military Education and Training; International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement; Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Programs; Section 1206 authority; and Section 1207 authority.

and Resource Plans for Lebanon, program plans and guidance, congressional budget justifications, and other relevant documents. We obtained funding data from State and DOD on programs that provide security assistance to Lebanon. We also interviewed State and DOD officials in Washington, D.C., and Beirut, Lebanon, and DOD officials in Tampa, Florida. Appendix I provides a detailed discussion of our scope and methodology.

We conducted this performance audit from June 2012 to March 2013 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

Background

Lebanon is a small, religiously diverse country on the Mediterranean Sea that borders Israel and Syria. (See fig. 1.)

Figure 1: Map of Lebanon and Its Neighbors

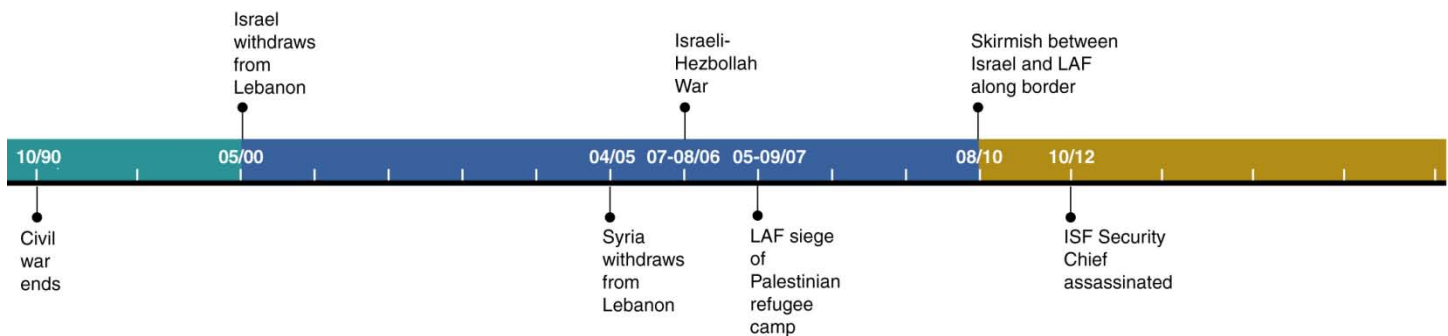


Sources: GAO; Map Resources (map).

Religious tensions among Lebanon's Maronite Christians, Sunni Muslims, and Shiite Muslims, among others, along with an influx of Palestinian refugees into Lebanon, have fueled Lebanon's internal strife and conflicts with its neighbors. During the civil war between 1975 and 1990, both Syrian and Israeli forces occupied the country. In the midst of the civil war and Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon, Hezbollah emerged in Lebanon as a powerful Islamic militant group. Throughout the 1990s, Hezbollah, funded by Iran and designated by the United States and Israel as a terrorist organization, pursued its military campaign against Israeli forces occupying Lebanon while also participating in Lebanon's political system. In 2000, Israeli forces withdrew from southern Lebanon. In 2005, with pressure from the international community, Syrian forces withdrew from Lebanon following the assassination of Lebanon's prime minister. The subsequent parliamentary elections that year resulted in a member of Hezbollah holding a cabinet position for the first time. In the summer of 2006, Hezbollah and Israel entered into a month-long conflict that ended with the adoption of United Nations Security Council

Resolution 1701 by both the Israeli and Lebanese governments.² The resolution called for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in parallel with the deployment of Lebanese and United Nations forces and the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon, among other things. Since 2011, instability in neighboring Syria may have exacerbated sectarian conflict within Lebanon. See figure 2 for a timeline of selected political events in Lebanon.

Figure 2: Timeline of Selected Political Events in Lebanon



Source: GAO analysis of public information.

The United States has provided Lebanon with assistance, such as emergency humanitarian aid during the civil war and training for military forces under the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program. The United States and Lebanon have historically enjoyed a good relationship in part because of cultural and religious ties, a large Lebanese-American community in the United States, and the pro-Western orientation of Lebanon, particularly during the Cold War. Following the Syrian withdrawal in 2005 and the 2006 Israeli-Hezbollah war, the United States increased its security assistance to Lebanon. The United States provided assistance to the LAF, which is generally responsible for providing border security, counterterrorism, and national defense, and to the ISF, or police force, which is generally responsible for maintaining law and order in Lebanon. The fiscal year 2006 appropriations marked the first time since 1984 that U.S. agencies allocated Foreign Military Financing grants to help modernize and equip the LAF. Since then, the United States has provided security assistance to Lebanon through the Foreign Military Financing program; IMET;

²S.C. Res. 1701, U.N. Doc. S/Res/1701 (2006).

International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) program; the Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related (NADR) programs; and Section 1206 and Section 1207 authorities for training and equipping foreign militaries and security forces and for reconstruction, stabilization, and security activities in foreign countries, respectively. The NADR security assistance for Lebanon has been provided through three programs: Antiterrorism Assistance, Counterterrorism Financing, and Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS). Table 1 describes these security assistance programs. In addition, to these security assistance programs, U.S. Special Forces units have provided specialized training to LAF Special Forces units, according to agency officials.

Table 1: Selected U.S. Security Assistance Programs

Program	Description	Implementing agency
Foreign Military Financing ^a	Provides grants and loans to foreign governments for the acquisition of U.S. defense equipment, services, and training.	DOD
International Military Education and Training (IMET)	Provides training, such as technical and professional military education, on a grant basis to students from allied and friendly nations.	DOD
International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE)	Supports country and global programs critical to combating transnational crime and illicit threats, including efforts against terrorist networks in the illegal drug trade and illicit enterprises.	State
NADR - Antiterrorism Assistance	Trains civilian security and law enforcement personnel from friendly governments in police procedures that deal with terrorism.	State
NADR - Counterterrorism Financing	Provides training for law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges, among others, in specific elements of money laundering and terrorist financing crimes.	State
NADR - Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS)	Assesses countries' export control systems and provides a variety of assistance to help countries develop and improve their strategic trade and related border control systems.	State
Section 1206 authority	Trains and equips foreign military and nonmilitary maritime forces to conduct counterterrorist operations or support military and stability operations in which the U.S. armed services are a participant.	DOD and State
Section 1207 authority ^b	Provides for reconstruction, stabilization, and security activities in foreign countries.	State

Source: GAO analysis of State and DOD information.

^aForeign Military Financing can fund the transfer of services or equipment through either Direct Commercial Sales or Foreign Military Sales.

^bSection 1207 authority expired on September 30, 2010.

The United States Has Kept Strategic Goals for Lebanon Constant Since 2007 and Adjusted Security Assistance in Response to Political and Security Conditions

The United States has kept strategic goals for Lebanon constant since 2007. These goals include supporting the Government of Lebanon in establishing stability and security against internal threats from militant extremists and countering destabilizing influences. U.S. agencies have adjusted security assistance in response to Lebanon's political and security conditions. For example, State and DOD have delayed releasing funds and limited the types of equipment provided. Both agencies have also implemented additional assistance programs since fiscal year 2007.

U.S. Strategic Goals Are to Support a Stable, Secure, and Independent Lebanese Government

Since 2007, U.S. strategic goals for Lebanon have been to support the nation as a stable, secure, and independent democracy. According to DOD and State officials, the overarching priorities for Lebanon remain focused on supporting Lebanese sovereignty and stability and countering the influence of Syria and Iran. Security-related goals for Lebanon focus on counterterrorism and regional stability or internal security.³ Programs activities seek to support development of the LAF and the ISF as the only legitimate providers of Lebanon's security. The goals and objectives of the individual security assistance programs are intended to support the U.S. strategic goals and overarching priorities, as the following examples illustrate:

- Goals for the Foreign Military Financing, IMET, and 1206 programs in Lebanon since the departure of Syrian forces are to bolster the capability of the LAF, nurture the bilateral military relationship between the United States and the LAF, and continue encouraging establishment of a stable, legal, and pro-U.S. civil government.
- Goals for the INCLE police training program are (1) to build Lebanon's operational capacity to combat crime, and prevent and respond to terror attacks; and (2) to assist Lebanon in developing the ISF into a

³According to State, U.S. goals support the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701. The resolution, adopted on August 11, 2006, includes a statement emphasizing the importance of the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory. According to State, full implementation of the resolution is a key priority for the United States.

competent, professional, and democratic police force with the necessary training, equipment, and institutional capacity to enforce the rule of law in Lebanon, cement sovereign Lebanese government control over its territory, and protect the Lebanese people.

- Goals for the Antiterrorism Assistance program in Lebanon are to develop and build the Lebanese government's capacities in border security, mid- and senior-level leadership development, and counterterrorism investigations.
- Goals for the Counterterrorism Financing Program are to deny terrorists access to money, resources, and support.
- Goals for EXBS in Lebanon focus on strengthening the capability of Lebanese enforcement agencies to effectively control cross-border trade in strategic goods.
- Goals for the 1207 program were to strengthen Lebanon's internal security forces after armed conflicts in 2006 and 2007.

State and DOD Have Adjusted Implementation of Security Assistance Programs to Meet Conditions on the Ground

The goals and objectives of U.S. security assistance to Lebanon have continued to focus on supporting Lebanese sovereignty and stability and countering the influences of Syria and Iran. However, according to State and DOD officials, the agencies have changed how they implement programs based on changes in the political and security situation, for example, by delaying the release of funds or limiting the types of equipment provided. In one instance, State delayed committing fiscal year 2010 Foreign Military Financing funds as a result of an incident on August 3, 2010, in which the LAF opened fire on an Israeli Defense Force unit engaged in routine maintenance along the Blue Line,⁴ alleging that it had crossed into Lebanese territory. Two Lebanese soldiers, a journalist, and an Israeli officer were killed. According to State, in response to concerns raised by a member of Congress, State delayed committing \$100 million of fiscal year 2010 Foreign Military Financing funds for Lebanon, citing the need to determine whether equipment that the United States provided to the LAF was used against Israel. According to a State official, State committed the funds in November 2010 after consulting with the member of Congress.

In addition, according to State officials, State and DOD decided to place a temporary hold on lethal assistance to the LAF in January 2011, after the

⁴The Blue Line is the line of Israeli withdrawal recognized by the United Nations in 2000 and is not the Israeli-Lebanese border.

collapse of Prime Minister Saad Hariri's government. In March 2012, the agencies decided to lift the hold on lethal assistance based on the Mikati government's adherence to key international obligations to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon⁵ and United Nations Security Council Resolution.

The U.S. government has also implemented new security assistance programs in Lebanon since fiscal year 2007 in response to changing security assistance needs, according to State officials. For example, State began implementing the EXBS program in Lebanon in fiscal year 2009—after State performed an assessment to identify deficiencies in the country's ability to detect and interdict weapons of mass destruction and advanced conventional weapons, according to officials of State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation. State determined that Lebanon did not have a comprehensive system to regulate trade in strategic goods and technologies for the purpose of preventing the proliferation of such weapons, and lacked the necessary legal and institutional elements to manage strategic trade consistent with international standards. In addition, in fiscal year 2010, State's Bureau of Counterterrorism began implementing its Counterterrorism Financing program in Lebanon. According to bureau officials, the goals of the program are to build the foreign capacity of the Government of Lebanon to develop laws and regulations to deny terrorists access to funds.

State has also changed the focus of some of the security assistance programs. For example, the INCLE police training program is no longer providing basic training to cadets, according to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. The bureau turned the basic training over to the ISF as of July 2012 and is providing leadership and management training. The bureau is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration to develop specialized training to increase the ISF's investigatory skills, according to U.S. embassy officials. The bureau is also expanding its community policing program, according to bureau officials. In addition, State's Bureau for Counterterrorism has changed the focus of its antiterrorism training, according to officials of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security whom we interviewed in Lebanon. They explained that when the program began in

⁵The Special Tribunal for Lebanon is an independent judicial organization composed of Lebanese and international judges. Its primary mandate is to hold trials for the people accused of carrying out the attack on February 14, 2005, which killed 23 people, including the former prime minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri, and injured many others.

2007, it focused on training Lebanese security details to protect national leaders. The trained protection details have demonstrated a mastery of the skills for which they were trained. As a result, the Bureau for Counterterrorism and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security consider the protection mission to be complete and since 2010 has shifted its focus to border security, management and leadership, and counterterrorism investigations, according to the Diplomatic Security officials. Finally, while there have been no major changes to the EXBS program in Lebanon, U.S. embassy officials stated that the United States has increased the program's emphasis on convincing the government to change its export control laws.

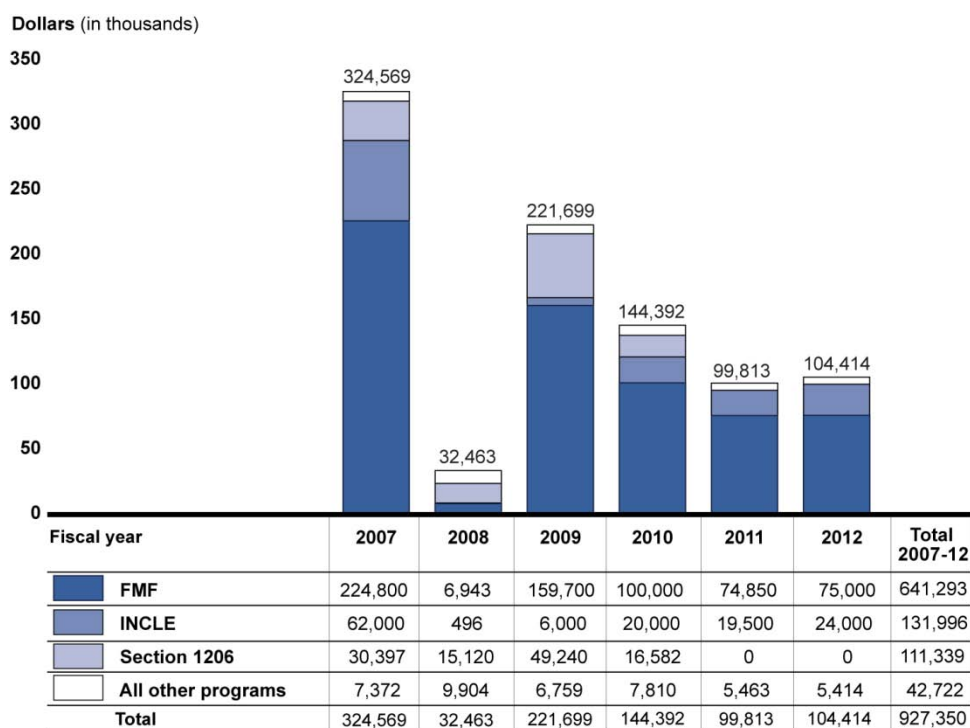
**U.S. Agencies
Allocated Over \$925
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U.S. agencies have allocated over \$925 million in security assistance for Lebanon from fiscal years 2007 through 2012, with funds varying by year and program. The majority of funds—69 percent—was from the Foreign Military Financing program, though State and DOD also utilized seven other programs. State has disbursed the majority of funds it allocated for each fiscal year, while DOD has committed the majority of funds for Foreign Military Financing.

**Security Assistance
Allocated for Lebanon
Varied by Year**

In order to help achieve U.S. strategic goals, State and DOD have allocated more than \$925 million in security assistance for Lebanon's LAF and ISF from fiscal years 2007 through 2012. This funding peaked in fiscal year 2007 at about \$323 million, declined in fiscal year 2008 to about \$32 million, and has fluctuated from fiscal years 2009 through 2012. (See fig. 3.)

Figure 3: Total U.S. Security Assistance Allocated for Lebanon, Fiscal Years 2007-2012



Source: GAO analysis of State data.

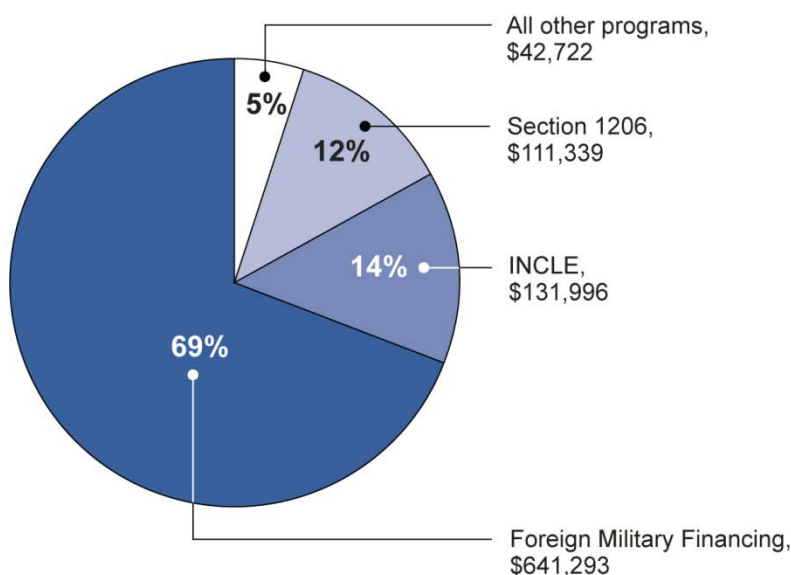
In fiscal year 2007, the \$325 million allocated for security assistance for Lebanon followed the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel and assisted Lebanon in fulfilling its obligations under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701. This funding level represented a significant increase over fiscal year 2006, when U.S. security assistance for Lebanon totaled only about \$28 million.⁶ See appendix II for information on allocation, obligation, and disbursement or commitment of security assistance for Lebanon by program and year.

⁶Of the \$325 million in security assistance allocated in fiscal year 2007, roughly \$280 million was allocated from supplemental appropriations. Fiscal year 2009 security assistance allocations also included funding allocated from supplemental appropriations. Appropriations for subsequent fiscal years support the continuation of these efforts, albeit at lower levels.

U.S. Agencies Allocated the Majority of Security Assistance through the Foreign Military Financing Program and Used Seven Other Programs

U.S. agencies allocated the majority (approximately 69 percent, or \$641 million) of security assistance for Lebanon from fiscal years 2007 through 2012 through the Foreign Military Financing program, which provides grants and loans to the Lebanese Armed Forces to purchase U.S. equipment, services, and training. Figure 4 shows the distribution of U.S. security assistance allocated for Lebanon by program.

Figure 4: Total U.S. Security Assistance for Lebanon by Program for Fiscal Years 2007-2012



Source: GAO analysis of State data.

Note: The "all other programs" grouping includes IMET, Antiterrorism Assistance, Counterterrorism Financing, EXBS, and Section 1207.

The Foreign Military Financing program funded the purchase of various equipment and services. For example, Lebanon received trucks, truck tractors, trailers, ambulances, cargo-troop carriers, and armament vehicles through the Foreign Military Financing program. Other equipment purchased through the Foreign Military Financing program included helicopters, ships, radios, and spare parts. Appendix III presents selected equipment and services provided to Lebanon by the U.S. government and by other governments from fiscal years 2007 through 2012.

U.S. Agencies Disbursed or Committed the Majority of Funds

Generally, State disbursed the majority of funds allocated during the same fiscal year for security assistance programs providing funds for Lebanon, and DOD committed the majority of Foreign Military Financing funds for Lebanon.⁷ See appendix II for additional information on allocation, obligation, and disbursement or commitment of security assistance for Lebanon by program and year. Specifically, State disbursed about 78 percent of total allocations from fiscal years 2007 through 2012 for the IMET, INCLE, Antiterrorism Assistance, Counterterrorism Financing, and EXBS programs and the Section 1206 and 1207 authorities. Although State has disbursed the majority of these allocated funds, State has not disbursed some funds allocated for the INCLE and Antiterrorism Assistance programs for fiscal years 2007 through 2011. According to State officials, some obligated funds are waiting to be disbursed and all of the unobligated funds are no longer available for obligation. DOD has committed 87 percent of Foreign Military Financing funds for Lebanon for fiscal years 2007 through 2012.

U.S. Agencies Have Done Little Evaluation of Security Assistance Programs in Lebanon

As of February 2013, U.S. agencies had evaluated only the INCLE police training program for Lebanon and did not have firm plans to evaluate the other six ongoing security assistance programs.⁸ State's evaluation policy requires periodic evaluations of certain programs, consistent with standards established in U.S. law. Evaluations can be facilitated by collecting data on appropriate performance indicators. However, we and other audit agencies have previously reported deficiencies in how State and DOD measure program performance. For example, we found in 2011 that the IMET program evaluation efforts had few of the elements commonly accepted as appropriate for measuring progress and did not

⁷Foreign Military Financing funds are budgeted and tracked in a different way than the other foreign assistance accounts in this report. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) and the Defense Financing and Accounting Service (DFAS) are responsible for the financial systems that account for Foreign Military Financing funds, as well as for tracking the implementation and expenditure of those funds. Furthermore, DSCA's system can only track Foreign Military Financing uncommitted and committed amounts, not unliquidated obligations or disbursements. DFAS tracks disbursements using the Defense Integrated Finance System; however, there is no direct link between the DSCA and DFAS systems. As a result, DSCA was not able to provide data on unliquidated obligations or disbursements but did provide us with data on Foreign Military Financing allocations and commitments for Lebanon.

⁸The six other ongoing programs are the Foreign Military Financing, IMET, Antiterrorism Assistance, Counterterrorism Financing, EXBS program, and 1206 programs. Section 1207 authority expired on September 31, 2010.

objectively measure how IMET contributes to long-term desired outcomes.⁹ We have also reported deficiencies in how DOD defined performance measures for the 1206 program.¹⁰ In response to those reports, State and DOD concurred with our recommendations and described agency efforts to develop better performance measures.

State Policy Requires Periodic Evaluations of Certain Programs

State's evaluation policy, which is partly based on the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010,¹¹ requires that all large programs, projects, and activities be evaluated at least once in their lifetime or every 5 years, whichever is less.¹² According to State, the 2010 act strengthened the mandate to evaluate programs, requiring agencies to include a discussion of evaluations in their strategic plans and performance reports. State established its evaluation policy in February 2012 in part to comply with the requirements of this act. In addition, according to State, the policy supports State's goal of connecting evaluation to its investments in diplomacy and development to ensure that they align with the agency's overarching strategic goals and objectives. State's evaluation guidance requires each bureau to evaluate two to four projects, programs, or activities over a 24-month period beginning with fiscal year 2012, depending on the size, scope, and complexity of the programs being evaluated and the availability of funding. State's evaluation policy also requires all bureaus to complete a bureau evaluation plan and to update it annually. State requires the bureaus' plans to align with evaluation policy guidance and to assist each bureau in assessing the extent to which its efforts contribute to achieving its intermediate objectives and, by extension, its longer-term goals.

⁹GAO, *International Military Education and Training: Agencies Should Emphasize Human Rights Training and Improve Evaluations*, [GAO-12-123](#) (Washington, D.C.: Oct. 27, 2011).

¹⁰GAO, *International Security: DOD and State Need to Improve Sustainment Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation for Section 1206 and 1207 Assistance Programs*, [GAO-10-431](#) (Washington, D.C.: Apr. 15, 2010).

¹¹The act requires agencies to develop objective, quantifiable, and measurable goals and report progress against those goals. Pub. L. No. 111-352, 124 Stat. 3866.

¹²State defines the "lifetime" of a large program, project, or activity as the implementation period of that program, project, or activity, and defines "large" in terms of dollar value or the size of staff resources devoted to the effort. Under this policy, individual bureaus may use other criteria as well and are responsible for determining the selection, timing, process, and manner of evaluation for specific programs, projects, and activities.

Program Evaluations Can Be Facilitated by Performance Measures

Program evaluations are individual systematic studies conducted periodically or on an ad hoc basis to assess how well a program is working. As a key component of effective program management, evaluations assess how well a program is working and help managers make informed decisions about current and future programming.¹³ An evaluation provides an overall assessment of whether a program works and identifies adjustments that may improve its results. Depending on their focus, evaluations may examine aspects of program operations (such as in a process evaluation) or factors in the program environment that may impede or contribute to its success. Program evaluations may systematically compare the effectiveness of alternative programs aimed at the same objective. Types of evaluation include process (or implementation), outcome, and impact evaluations, as well as cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses.

Performance measurement, by contrast, is the ongoing monitoring and reporting of program accomplishments, particularly progress toward pre-established goals. Performance measurement is typically conducted by program or agency officials and focuses on whether a program has achieved its objectives, expressed as measurable performance indicators. As indicators of progress toward goals, performance measures can inform overall program evaluations. Program evaluations typically examine a broader range of information on program performance and its context than is feasible to monitor on an ongoing basis.¹⁴ Both forms of assessment—program evaluation and performance measurement—aim to support resource allocation and other policy decisions to improve service delivery and program effectiveness. But performance measurement, because of its ongoing nature, can serve as an early warning system to management and as a vehicle for improving accountability to the public.

State Has Evaluated One Security Assistance Program in Lebanon

As of February 2013, U.S. agencies had evaluated only one of their security assistance programs in Lebanon. The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs contracted with an external

¹³GAO, *Executive Guide: Effectively Implementing the Government Performance and Results Act*, [GAO/GGD-96-118](#) (Washington, D.C.: June 1996).

¹⁴GAO, *Performance Measurement and Evaluation: Definitions and Relationships*, [GAO-11-646SP](#) (Washington, D.C.: May 2011).

organization to conduct an evaluation of the INCLE police training program for the ISF. The evaluation was conducted between November 2010 and May 2011. The bureau commissioned the evaluation to establish the relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the program from 2008 through 2010. The evaluation covered five training courses, and the evaluation team collected data by means of focus groups, semistructured interviews, structured observation, learning tests, field cluster research, and document review.

The INCLE police training evaluation demonstrated the importance of conducting a program evaluation. According to the evaluation, the training was effective, with clear evidence that the ISF trainees had both learned and been able to retain the core knowledge taught in all five courses. The program also succeeded in reaching ISF personnel from throughout the country. The evaluation further determined that the training program made a relevant contribution to international donor assistance to the ISF. However, the evaluation concluded that the program did not reach its principal stated objective in the program period. The evaluation found no evidence to suggest that the performance of the ISF had systematically improved as a result of the training program. The evaluation also concluded that, although trainees learned and retained knowledge successfully, they were generally not able to apply the skills taught by the program in their daily duties. The evaluation identified the failure to apply skills as the key impediment to program effectiveness and attributed the failure to a flaw in the program design, which failed to sufficiently engage the ISF in the inception stage to clarify objectives and secure broad consensus on program goals. Moreover, the design of the training was not informed by a systematic assessment of the ISF's training needs.

The final evaluation report included five recommendations to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, including a joint recommendation with the ISF, and two additional recommendations for the ISF. The recommendations included a number of subcomponents. The report recommended that the bureau take the following actions:

- continue the training based on renewed program consensus;
- closely coordinate program transition with ISF on the operational level;
- expand senior leadership training;
- strengthen internal capacity for program design and management; and
- in addition to quantitative performance measures, design meaningful qualitative performance indicators in cooperation with the ISF to

provide relevant and timely progress information throughout the program period.

The evaluation report also outlined steps to transition the training program to full ISF control. Bureau officials stated that the bureau has adopted many of the report's recommendations, including the transition of one course to full ISF control in July 2012, the creation of a training coordination process for INL and other donors to maximize synergies and avoid duplication of effort, and the creation of a strategic planning cell within the ISF to coordinate directly with the bureau and other donors.

DOD Has Not Evaluated the Effectiveness of the Section 1206 Program in Lebanon

Although the Section 1206 program in Lebanon has not been evaluated, DOD—under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy—is implementing a new assessment process for the Section 1206 program. The objectives of the assessment process are to

- measure implementation of Section 1206 programs to build partner capacity,
- assess quality and timeliness of program implementation,
- measure the impact of programs, and
- estimate return on investment.

DOD is implementing this new process in part to respond to our 2010 recommendation that DOD develop and implement specific plans to monitor, evaluate, and report routinely on Section 1206 project outcomes and their impact on U.S. strategic objectives.¹⁵ DOD conducted a pilot test of its assessment process of counterterrorism-oriented Section 1206 programs in the Philippines and stability operations-oriented Section 1206 programs in Georgia in 2012. DOD also assessed Section 1206 programs in Djibouti, Tunisia, and Poland from March through June 2012. DOD officials stated in December 2012 that they were not able to assess the program in Lebanon because of the security situation, but they plan to include Lebanon as soon as the security situation permits.

Although DOD has not evaluated the effectiveness of the 1206 program or any other security assistance programs in Lebanon in which it participates, it conducts various types of assessments of the LAF. For example, since 2010, the U.S. Central Command and the LAF have

¹⁵ [GAO-10-431](#).

participated in reviews—known as joint capabilities reviews—to assess the progress of the LAF based on eight broad critical capabilities. The critical capabilities—for example, Land and Border Defense and Security—are linked to the broad strategic goals described in State’s Mission Strategic and Resource Plans for Lebanon (now Mission Resource Requests), according to DOD Central Command officials.¹⁶ The joint capabilities reviews include milestone dates from 2013 through 2015. The U.S. Central Command also conducts annual assessments linked to the Theater Campaign Plan for Lebanon.¹⁷ These assessments grade the LAF on desired outcomes and make recommendations for course corrections. According to the DOD Central Command officials, the assessments are organized by lines of effort, such as defeating violent extremist organizations and building partner capacity. These lines of effort are not linked to specific security assistance programs, however.

State Has Not Completed Plans or Established Time Frames to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Remaining Security Assistance Programs in Lebanon

Although bureau evaluation plans were due in May 2012, State bureaus responsible for security assistance programs were at varying stages of implementing State’s evaluation policy at the time of this report. For example, State’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, which is responsible for the Foreign Military Financing and IMET programs, created an evaluation plan for fiscal year 2013 which does not include an evaluation of the programs in Lebanon, according to a bureau official.

State’s Bureau of Counterterrorism, which manages the Counterterrorism Financing program and—along with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security—is responsible for the Antiterrorism Assistance program, created an evaluation plan for fiscal year 2013, according to a Bureau of Counterterrorism official. This plan does not include an evaluation of the

¹⁶These mission-level plans document the overarching foreign policy basis for U.S. embassy and consulate activities for the budget year and beyond.

¹⁷The Theater Campaign Plans are intended to organize and align operations, activities, events, and investments in time, space, and purpose to achieve strategic effect rather than operational effect.

programs¹⁸ in Lebanon. The Bureau of Counterterrorism will evaluate the Antiterrorism Assistance programs for two other partner nations, Bangladesh and Morocco. According to a Bureau of Counterterrorism official, the bureau will consider the Antiterrorism Assistance Program in Lebanon for the next tranche of evaluations beginning in fiscal year 2014.

State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, which implements the EXBS program, submitted its bureau evaluation plan on April 10, 2012. The plan, which covers fiscal years 2012 through 2015, does not include an evaluation of the EXBS program. The bureau does periodically assess the legal, regulatory, and institutional components of a country's strategic trade control systems using a 419-point assessment methodology. The bureau conducted such an assessment for Lebanon in 2010, according to bureau officials. However, according to the bureau's evaluation plan, the assessments do not assess enforcement capacity to the extent preferred and may not fully satisfy the intent of State's evaluation policy. The bureau is working with the Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources to determine how to integrate the assessment methodology into program evaluations that would meet State's evaluation policy. The bureau may evaluate EXBS within the fiscal years 2013 to 2016 time frame.

Although State bureaus are at varying stages of developing their evaluation plans, State has developed department-wide guidance for standardizing the way it measures the effectiveness of its programs and has entered into contracts with five contractors for monitoring and evaluation services, according to State officials. State bureaus can use these contracts to evaluate their programs.

¹⁸The training provided by the Counterterrorism Financing program is expected to be completed prior to September 30, 2015, according to State officials. End-of-course evaluations completed by students will be submitted to State after completion of the training. The Bureau of Counterterrorism also reviews assessments conducted by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and by other organizations for information to help develop programs, integrate them with efforts by other countries, and provide indicators of Lebanon's progress.

Past Deficiencies Reported in Agencies' Performance Measurement May Inhibit Program Evaluation

We have reported previous deficiencies in performance measurement of State's and DOD's security assistance programs, and these deficiencies may inhibit agencies' ability to conduct program evaluations. As we have previously reported, performance measurement of State and DOD security assistance programs exhibited several deficiencies, including a lack of specific, measurable, and outcome-oriented performance indicators.

- In 2008, we reported that State did not systematically assess the outcomes of the Antiterrorism Assistance program and, as a result, could not determine the effectiveness of this program.¹⁹ More recently, a 2012 State Office of Inspector General assessment of the antiterrorism programs in certain countries reported that the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Office of Antiterrorism Assistance could not determine the Antiterrorism Assistance program's effectiveness in part because they had not developed specific, measurable, and outcome-oriented program objectives.²⁰
- In 2011, we reported that State's and DOD's ability to assess IMET's effectiveness was limited by several weaknesses in program monitoring and evaluation, including the lack of a performance plan for IMET that explained how the program was expected to achieve its goals and how progress could be assessed through performance measures and targets.²¹
- In 2010, we reported that DOD and State had incorporated little monitoring and evaluation into the Section 1206 program and had not consistently defined performance measures for Section 1206 projects.²²

¹⁹GAO, *Combating Terrorism: State Department's Antiterrorism Program Needs Improved Guidance and More Systematic Assessments of Outcomes*, [GAO-08-336](#) (Washington, D.C.: Feb. 29, 2008).

²⁰Department of State, Office of Inspector General, *Evaluation of the Antiterrorism Assistance Program for Countries under the Bureaus of Near Eastern Affairs and South and Central Asian Affairs*, AUD/MERO-12-29 (Washington, D.C.: April 2012).

²¹[GAO-12-123](#).

²²[GAO-10-431](#).

Although Facing Challenges, State and DOD Are Continuing Efforts to Improve Performance Measurement

According to State and DOD officials, assessing the impacts of security assistance programs is challenging, but they continue to seek improvements in performance measurement. For example, officials of the Bureaus of Counterterrorism and Diplomatic Security stated that it is an enormous task to come up with concrete, meaningful performance indicators for the Antiterrorism Assistance program, which addresses aviation security, investigations, and response techniques. In addition, officials at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut stated that State and DOD are struggling to develop specific, measurable performance indicators and still have a long way to go. DOD officials stated that developing metrics to measure the results of security assistance programs in Lebanon is difficult. The officials stated that some indicators may be subjective and difficult to quantify—for example, U.S. influence in building relationships or the willingness of the LAF to fight. Furthermore, they said that it is difficult to quantify what would have happened in the absence of U.S. assistance.

Because the agencies do not have specific, measurable, and outcome-oriented performance indicators, U.S. officials have cited anecdotal evidence that they believe demonstrates the effectiveness of U.S. security assistance programs in Lebanon. For example, some officials have cited the LAF's success in taking control of a Palestinian refugee camp from Al-Qaeda-inspired militants as an indication of the impact of the assistance. The United States provided ammunition and other supplies to assist the LAF during the 3-month engagement. As other indications of effectiveness, U.S. officials also mentioned the LAF's actions in arresting members of a Shiite clan involved in kidnappings, the professionalism demonstrated by LAF Special Forces units in training exercises, and increases in drug seizures. However, the use of only positive anecdotal evidence does not provide sufficient context and scope to help officials judge the effectiveness of these programs.

State and DOD officials described agency efforts to improve performance measurement. For example, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is shifting from reporting output measures, such as numbers of students trained, to outcome measures, according to bureau officials. The bureau plans to collect more accurate performance metrics that focus on measuring the impact of the INCLE police training program in Lebanon. The bureau also plans to consider such factors as the quality of the officers and the extent to which women are integrated into the ISF, according to bureau officials. Moreover, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is working with the ISF to improve the performance indicators in the ISF's strategic plan,

according to officials at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The current plan includes some output measures, such as number of traffic stops made by police. Embassy officials also stated that they are working with the LAF to develop a military cooperation plan that will include performance measures. In addition, according to DOD Central Command officials, efforts are under way to develop a new framework for its annual assessments of the LAF that will include improved performance measures. The new framework will examine the effects of DOD efforts in Lebanon.

Conclusions

Since 2007, U.S. agencies have allocated almost \$1 billion in security assistance for Lebanon, supporting its efforts to build a stable, secure, and independent democracy following the withdrawal of Syrian forces and the Israeli-Hezbollah war. U.S. security assistance for Lebanon has presented certain risks because of the influence wielded by the militant group Hezbollah, which is now a member of the Lebanese government. Ensuring that U.S. security assistance for Lebanon is effective in achieving U.S. strategic goals is now more important than ever—to help Lebanon resist the influence of Iran, which funds Hezbollah, and to withstand the potential spillover of conflict in Syria.

Program evaluation and performance measurement are key management tools to ensure that U.S. security assistance is effective in achieving U.S. strategic goals. However, the U.S. government has evaluated the effectiveness of only one security assistance program in Lebanon, a program to which it allocated about 14 percent of the nearly \$1 billion in security assistance allocations since 2007. Neither State nor DOD has completed plans or time frames to evaluate the remaining six ongoing U.S. security assistance programs in Lebanon. Without evaluations of all of its security assistance programs in Lebanon, the U.S. government cannot show that the programs have been effective in achieving their specific objectives or that they constitute the best mix of security assistance for Lebanon to support U.S. strategic goals for the country. Moreover, because State and DOD currently measure program effectiveness using performance indicators that are not specific, measurable, and outcome-oriented, program measurement cannot facilitate evaluations. While State and DOD officials described general agency efforts to develop better performance indicators, they have not yet produced plans with specific time frames for completing their efforts.

Recommendations for Executive Action

To enhance the U.S. government's ability to determine if security assistance programs in Lebanon have been effective in achieving their specific objectives and that they constitute the best mix of security assistance to support U.S. strategic goals for the country, and to help State and DOD track progress toward established goals for Lebanon, we recommend that

1. the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, complete plans to evaluate the effectiveness of security assistance programs in Lebanon, including milestone dates for implementing the plans;
2. the Secretary of State develop performance indicators for State's security assistance programs for Lebanon that are specific, measurable, and outcome-oriented; and
3. the Secretary of Defense develop performance indicators for DOD's security assistance programs for Lebanon that are specific, measurable, and outcome-oriented.

Agency Comments and Our Evaluation

We provided a draft of this report to State and DOD for comment. State and DOD provided written comments which are reprinted in appendixes IV and V, respectively. State also provided technical comments, which we have incorporated into the report, as appropriate. In their comments, State and DOD generally concurred with the report's findings and recommendations.

In its written comments, State said that it recognized that a robust, coordinated, and targeted evaluation function is essential to its ability to measure and monitor program performance; make decisions for programmatic adjustments and changes; document program impact; identify best practices and lessons learned; help assess return on investment; provide inputs for policy, planning, and budget decisions; and assure accountability to the American people. State said that Lebanon is a good example of a security assistance program that involves complex program goals and therefore requires a carefully designed evaluation framework. State noted, however, that the qualitative versus quantitative nature of security assistance makes formal evaluation of such programs a unique challenge. State said that, short of formal program evaluation relative to Lebanon, it relies on feedback from other sources, such as periodic Joint Capabilities Reviews involving the LAF and the U.S. government; Mission Resource Requests from the U.S. Embassy in Beirut; and capability assessments from the U.S. Central Command. We agree that these reviews may provide useful input but are limited because

they are not linked to specific security assistance programs and do not substitute for formal evaluations, which State agreed would improve its ability to determine the effectiveness of U.S. security assistance.

In its written comments, DOD stated that it would coordinate with State to evaluate the effectiveness of Lebanon's security forces with clear metrics that can be evaluated and communicated back to Congress. DOD also agreed to improve assessment and evaluation metrics established to measure the results of assistance provided under Section 1206 and Section 1207 authority. DOD commented that the draft report did not consider current DOD evaluating programs that utilize key baseline documents, such as the Joint Capabilities Review. The draft report, however, acknowledged that DOD assesses the capabilities of the LAF in other types of assessments but stated that, while these are useful, they do not provide the program-specific evaluation that is needed to ensure that U.S. security assistance is effective in achieving U.S. strategic goals. DOD's 2012 implementation guidance for assessing Section 1206 programs also recognizes this limitation of other types of assessments. This guidance states that DOD must be able to demonstrate the return on investment that Section 1206 training and equipment provide to DOD and to the U.S. government, and that the assessments are a means for DOD leadership to determine which types of programs are more successful and which partner nations make demonstrable progress toward the objectives of the Section 1206 programs.

DOD also stated that, in the future, it requests that GAO extend it the courtesy of a formal out brief prior to releasing the draft report to the Congress. We acknowledge the importance of holding exit meetings with agency officials. As such, our protocol is to offer an exit meeting with agency officials after our data collection and analysis are complete. We requested an exit with DOD on January 28, 2013. However, due to the limited availability of the designated DOD policy official with oversight of U.S. efforts in Lebanon and a subsequent change in the designated official, we were not able to hold the exit meeting until February 15, 2013. DOD was provided a draft of the report in advance of the exit meeting. DOD's technical comments provided at this meeting were incorporated in the report, as appropriate.

We are sending copies of this report to the appropriate congressional committees and the Secretaries of State and Defense. In addition, the

report is available at no charge on the GAO website at
<http://www.gao.gov>.

If you or your staff have any questions about this report, please contact me at (202) 512-7331 or johnsoncm@gao.gov. Contact points for our Offices of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page of this report. GAO staff who made key contributions to this report are listed in appendix VI.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles M. Johnson, Jr.", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Charles Michael Johnson, Jr.
Director, International Affairs and Trade

Appendix I: Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

We assessed the extent to which the U.S. government, from fiscal years 2007 through 2012, (1) adjusted its strategic goals and security assistance programs in Lebanon, (2) funded assistance programs for Lebanese security forces, and (3) evaluated the effectiveness of security assistance programs in Lebanon.

To assess the extent to which the U.S. government has adjusted its strategic goals and security assistance programs in Lebanon, we reviewed documents from the Department of State (State) and the Department of Defense (DOD) for fiscal years 2007 through 2012, including Mission Strategic and Resource Plans for Lebanon, congressional budget justifications, country plans, and other relevant documents. We also interviewed knowledgeable officials from State and DOD. At State headquarters in Washington, D.C., we spoke with officials from the Bureaus of Counterterrorism, Diplomatic Security, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, International Security and Nonproliferation, and Political-Military Affairs, and from the Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources. Within DOD, we met with officials from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Defense Security Cooperation Agency in the Washington, D.C., area, as well as officials of the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida. In addition, we met with U.S. officials and officials of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Lebanese Internal Security Forces at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

To assess the extent to which the U.S. government funded security assistance programs for Lebanon Armed Forces and Lebanese Internal Security Forces from fiscal years 2007 through 2012, we analyzed budget and funding data from State and DOD. Recognizing that different agencies and bureaus may use slightly different accounting terms, we provided State with the definitions from GAO's *A Glossary of Terms Used in the Federal Budget Process* ([GAO-05-734SP](#)) and requested that it provide the relevant data according to those definitions. State provided data on the status of allocations, obligations, unobligated balances, and disbursements as of September 30, 2012, for funding accounts that supported security assistance in Lebanon: International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement; International Military Education and Training; Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Programs; and the Section 1206 and Section 1207 authorities. State collected the data directly from each bureau if it was a State-implemented account. However, because Foreign Military Financing funds are budgeted and tracked in a different way than other foreign assistance accounts, DOD provided us with data on allocations and commitments. All data pertain to

overt activities and are nominal numbers that have not been adjusted for inflation. We also discussed the types and amounts of assistance provided with various officials of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Lebanese Internal Security Forces. To assess the reliability of the data provided, we requested and reviewed information from officials from each agency regarding the agency's underlying financial data system or systems and the checks, controls, and reviews used to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data provided. We determined that the data provided were sufficiently reliable for the purposes of this report.

To assess the extent to which the U.S. government has evaluated the effectiveness of its security assistance programs in Lebanon, we reviewed relevant State and DOD documents, including an independent evaluation of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs' police training program in Lebanon, DOD's *Section 1206 Assessment Handbook*, and various State and DOD program and country assessments. We also examined State evaluation guidelines, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs evaluation guidance, various bureau evaluation plans, and other documents. Furthermore, we reviewed relevant GAO reports, including those that discussed how agencies measure program performance. We also reviewed special GAO publications on performance measurement and evaluation. In addition, we interviewed officials from State and DOD in Washington, D.C., and at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, and DOD officials at the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida.

We conducted this performance audit from June 2012 to March 2013 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

Appendix II: Status of Funds for U.S. Security Assistance Programs for Lebanon

This appendix provides additional information on Department of State (State) and Department of Defense (DOD) programs used to provide security assistance to Lebanon from fiscal years 2007 through 2012. State and DOD utilized eight programs to provide more than \$925 million in security assistance to Lebanon from fiscal years 2007 through 2012. The majority of security assistance (95 percent) was provided through three programs: Foreign Military Financing, International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE), and the Section 1206 authority. Specifically, this appendix provides additional information on the Foreign Military Financing, INCLE, and the Section 1206 authority such as selected equipment and training provided and the status of funds including allocation, obligation, and commitment or disbursement of funds for the other five programs.

Foreign Military Financing Background

State administers Foreign Military Financing funding, with significant input from embassies, DOD, and the regional military commands. DOD's Defense Security Cooperation Agency executes the program. Foreign Military Financing provides grants and loans to foreign governments and international organizations for the acquisition of U.S. defense equipment, services, and training.

This funding is available for obligation for 1 year and is considered obligated upon apportionment based on annual appropriations bill language.¹ Once the period of availability for new obligations expires, the funds are available for an additional 5 years to liquidate obligations.² The funds remain entirely within the U.S. government until the point at which payments are made to defense companies for goods and services rendered.

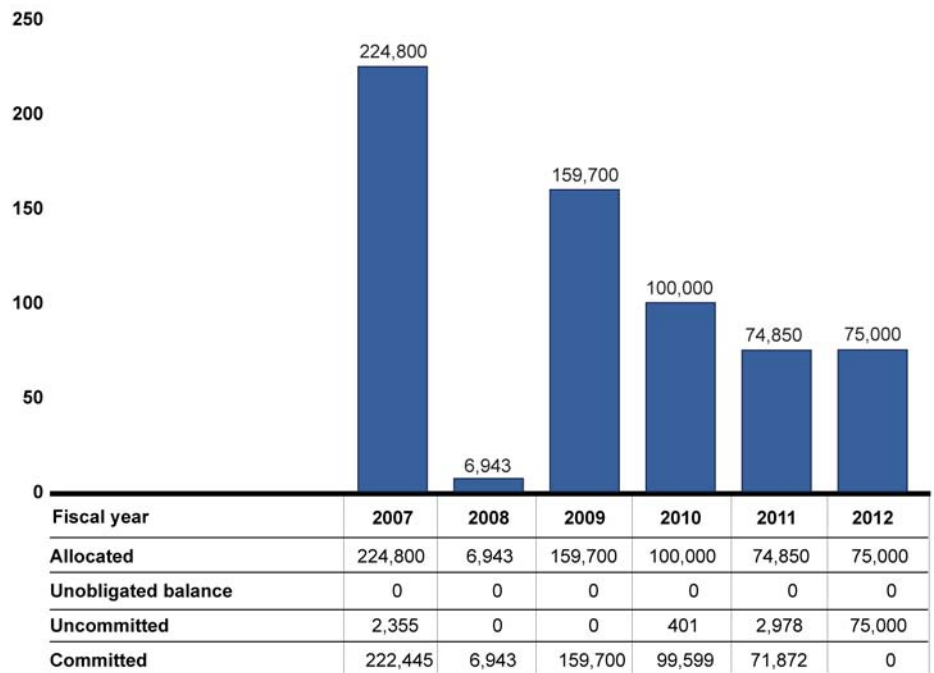
Appendix II

Foreign Military Financing

From fiscal years 2007 through 2012, State allocated a total of about \$641 million in Foreign Military Financing for Lebanon. DOD reported that for fiscal years 2007 through 2012, the majority of allocated funds had been committed (see fig. 5). For Lebanon, Foreign Military Financing has provided basic equipment such as tactical radios, ammunition, rifles, helmets, body armor, and trucks. Lebanon has also received night vision goggles, missiles, and helicopters.

Figure 5: Status of Foreign Military Financing Funds for Lebanon, Fiscal Years 2007-2012

Dollars (in thousands)



Source: GAO analysis of DOD data.

Note: We are not able to present data on Foreign Military Financing for Lebanon in the same way as the other programs because its funds are budgeted and tracked in a different way than the other program funds and the system that is used does not track information consistent with the way we are presenting the data for the other programs. For the purposes of this report, "uncommitted" amounts represent Foreign Military Financing obligations not yet committed for expenditure and "committed" amounts include funding that has been committed but not yet disbursed, as well as Foreign Military Financing funding that has been disbursed to a case.

¹ Annual appropriations for Foreign Military Financing generally have contained language stating that Foreign Military Financing funds shall be obligated upon apportionment. For the most recent appropriations containing this language, see the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-74, December 23, 2011.

² Expired funds may also be used for certain contract modifications.

INCLE Background

State administers the INCLE program and uses it to assist the Government of Lebanon in developing its law enforcement and judicial capacity. These funds are generally available for obligation for 2 years. Once the period of availability for new obligations expires, the funds are available for an additional 5 years to liquidate the obligations.³ The period of availability for obligations of INCLE funds may be extended for an additional 4 years in certain cases.⁴

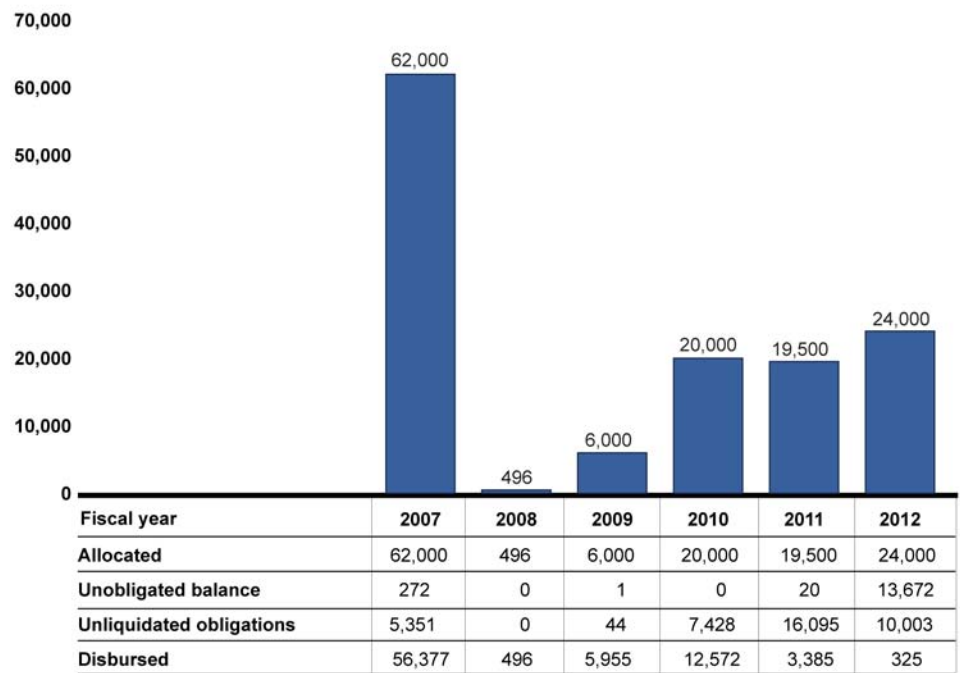
Appendix II

International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement

From fiscal years 2007 through 2012, State allocated a total of \$130 million in INCLE funds for Lebanon. While most of the allocated funds have been obligated, about 40 percent of total allocated funds from fiscal years 2007 through 2012 have been disbursed (see fig. 6). According to State, fiscal year 2007 marked the first allocation of INCLE funds for Lebanon. In Lebanon, the INCLE program has funded the construction of a police station building and the purchase of riot helmets and batons, pistols, and police vehicles, among other equipment. In addition, the INCLE program has funded training and technical assistance to the Lebanese Internal Security Forces, including, for example, courses in community policing.

Figure 6: Status of INCLE Funds for Lebanon, Fiscal Years 2007-2012

Dollars (in thousands)



Source: GAO analysis of State data.

Note: According to State, unobligated balances in fiscal years 2007, 2009, and 2011 are no longer available for obligation.

³Expired funds may also be used for certain contract modifications.

⁴Pursuant to authority generally provided in the annual Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, certain funds that have been deobligated remain available for obligation for an additional 4 years from the date on which the availability of such funds would otherwise expire if the funds were initially obligated before they would have expired.



Section 1206 Background

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, as amended, established the authority for Section 1206 programs to train and equip foreign national military and nonmilitary maritime forces, such as coast guards, to conduct counterterrorist operations or to support military and stability operations in which the U.S. armed forces are a participant.⁵

State and DOD jointly administer Section 1206 assistance. Funded from the DOD operations and maintenance accounts, Section 1206 funds remain available for 1 year for obligation. Once the period of availability for new obligations expires, the funds are available for an additional 5 years to liquidate the obligations.⁶

Appendix II

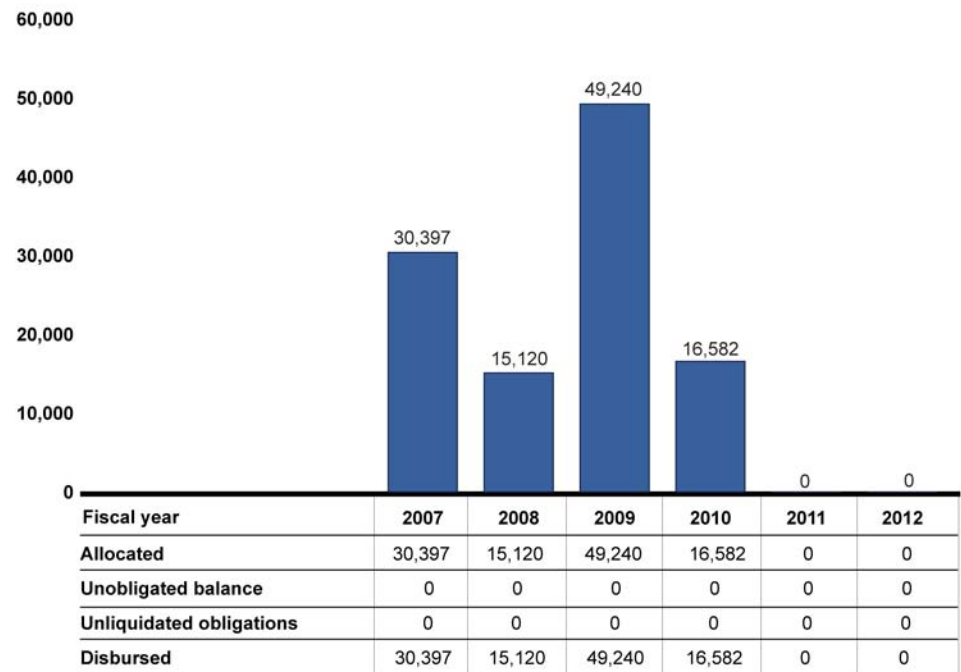
Section 1206 Authority

From fiscal years 2007 through 2012, DOD allocated a total of \$111 million through the Section 1206 program for Lebanon (see fig. 7). State reported that all allocated funds from fiscal years 2007 through 2012 have been obligated and disbursed.

For Lebanon, Section 1206 funding has provided vehicle spare parts, ammunition, and other basic supplies to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). In particular, equipment provided under Section 1206 was used to restock the LAF arsenal with basic ammunition after the 2007 siege at Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp and to begin to build the LAF's first secure communications system.

Figure 7: Status of Section 1206 Authority Funds for Lebanon, Fiscal Years 2007-2012

Dollars (in thousands)



Source: GAO analysis of State data.

⁵National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-163, § 1206.

⁶Expired funds may also be used for certain contract modifications.

Background

In addition to the Foreign Military Financing, INCLE, and Section 1206 programs, State and DOD provided security assistance to Lebanon through five other programs: Antiterrorism Assistance, International Military Education and Training, Section 1207 Train and Equip, Export Control and Related Border Security, and Counterterrorism Financing. See tables 2 through 6 for details on allocation, obligation, and disbursement of funds by these programs for security assistance for Lebanon from fiscal years 2007 through 2012.

Appendix II

Additional Programs Providing Security Assistance to Lebanon

Table 2: International Military Education and Training (IMET) Program, Fiscal Years 2007-2012

Dollars (in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12
Allocated	872	1,408	2,137	2,406	2,497	2,364
Unobligated balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unliquidated obligations	0	56	160	219	437	1901
Disbursed	872	1,352	1,977	2,187	2,060	463

Source: GAO analysis of State data.

Note: State's Bureau for Political-Military Affairs manages the IMET budget with input from DOD's Defense Security Cooperation Agency, which implements the program. IMET funds are generally available for obligation for 1 year and are available for expenditure for an additional 5 years after the end of their period of availability for obligation.

Table 3: Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (NADR): Antiterrorism Assistance Program, Fiscal Years 2007-2012

Dollars (in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12
Allocated	6,500	3,646	3,714	4,604	2,000	2,000
Unobligated balance	90	66	16	24	140	802
Unliquidated obligations	562	417	758	628	584	1,186
Disbursed	5,848	3,162	2,940	3,953	1,276	12

Source: GAO analysis of State data.

Notes: NADR funding supports the Antiterrorism Assistance program, which is managed and implemented by State with some implementation by a broader set of agencies. Antiterrorism Assistance funds are generally available for obligation for 2 years. All NADR obligations continue to be available for expenditure for an additional 5 years after the end of their period of availability for obligation.

According to State, unobligated balances in fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 are no longer available for obligation.

Appendix II

Additional Programs Providing Security Assistance to Lebanon (continued)

Table 4: NADR: Counterterrorism Financing Program, Fiscal Years 2007-2012

Dollars (in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12
Allocated	0	0	0	0	166	0
Unobligated balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unliquidated obligations	0	0	0	0	166	0
Disbursed	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: GAO analysis of State data.

Note: NADR funding supports the Counterterrorism Financing program, which is managed and implemented by State with some implementation by a broader set of agencies. Counterterrorism Financing funds are generally available for obligation for 2 years. All NADR obligations continue to be available for expenditure for an additional 5 years after the end of their period of availability for obligation.

Table 5: NADR: Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program, Fiscal Years 2007-2012

Dollars in thousands

	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12
Allocated	0	0	400	800	800	1,050
Unobligated balance	0	0	0	0	2	583
Unliquidated obligations	0	0	0	2	395	94
Disbursed	0	0	400	798	403	373

Source: GAO analysis of State data.

Notes: NADR funding supports the EXBS program, which is managed and implemented by State with some implementation by a broader set of agencies. EXBS funds are generally available for obligation for 2 years. All NADR obligations continue to be available for expenditure for an additional 5 years after the end of their period of availability of availability.

According to State, unobligated balances in fiscal year 2011 are not available for obligation.

Appendix II

Additional Programs Providing Security Assistance to Lebanon (continued)

Table 6: Section 1207 Train and Equip Authority, Fiscal Years 2007-2012

Dollars (in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12
Allocated	0	4,850	508	0	0	0
Unobligated balance	0	1,120	508	0	0	0
Unliquidated obligations	0	147	0	0	0	0
Disbursed	0	3,583	0	0	0	0

Source: GAO analysis of State data.

Notes: While funded through DOD, Section 1207 funds were transferred to State for management.

The authority for Section 1207 expired at the end of fiscal year 2010. When Section 1207 funds were transferred to State, they became "no year" money and will remain available until expended.

Appendix III: Selected Security Equipment and Services Provided to Lebanon by the U.S. Government and Other Governments

Table 7 presents selected security equipment and services provided by the United States to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) through the Foreign Military Financing and Section 1206 programs from fiscal years 2007 through 2012. According to data provided by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, 78 cases¹ were approved for Lebanon during this time frame and ranged in value from \$18,000 to \$38.2 million. The defense articles or services are listed in descending order based on the total estimated case value as reported by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. Table 8 presents selected security equipment or funding provided by countries other than the United States to the LAF, as reported by the LAF. Countries are listed in descending order based on the estimated value of security assistance provided.

Table 7: Selected Security Equipment or Service Provided by the United States to Lebanon, Fiscal Years 2007-2012

Defense article or service in selected cases	Description	Total estimated value (in millions)
High-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles	Provision includes trucks, ambulances, cargo troop carriers, armament vehicles, trailers, and tractors	\$38.2
Coastal security crafts	Provision of ships to monitor and patrol territorial waters	\$36.6
Signal equipment	Communications equipment including radios and training	\$31.7
Trunked radio system	Handheld and fixed radio installations and training	\$30.9
Caravan aircraft	One Caravan aircraft, including missiles	\$27.8
Spare parts and follow-on support	Spare parts and follow-on support for tactical vehicle and communications equipment	\$23.5
Ammunition	Ammunition cartridges, components, and publications	\$20.6
Training	Security Assistance Team Training	\$18.6
Helicopter spare parts	Spare parts for UH-1H helicopters, including communication equipment support	\$16.2
Ammunition	Ammunition cartridges, publications	\$15.2

Source: GAO analysis of Defense Security Cooperation Agency data.

¹Cases can include more than one item or service; case value refers to the total value for all items and services listed with a unique case identifier.

Appendix III: Selected Security Equipment and
Services Provided to Lebanon by the U.S.
Government and Other Governments

Table 8: Selected Security Equipment or Funding Provided by Other Countries to Lebanon

Donor country	Defense article or funding	Estimated value (in millions)
United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puma and Gazelle Helicopters • M60-A3 tanks • Trucks, vehicles and boats • Body armor • Tactical radios 	\$150
Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Civilian vehicles • Ammunition 	\$65 (cash) \$2.3 (equipment)
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helicopters • Vehicles • Spare parts 	\$38.3
Eight other countries or entities, combined ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics support and equipment • 	\$21
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small arms • Ammunition 	\$20.9
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naval radars and equipment • Patrol boats • Vehicle and thermal cameras 	\$12
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body armor • Sniper rifles and ammunition 	\$10.8
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess defense articles such as vehicles, spare parts 	\$3
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-riot equipment • Explosive ordnance disposal system 	\$2.7

Source: GAO analysis of LAF information.

^aThe other countries or entities include China, the Czech Republic, the European Union, Greece, Holland, Kuwait, Malaysia, and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Appendix IV: Comments from the U.S. Department of State



United States Department of State
Comptroller
1969 Dyess Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405

MAR 05 2013

Dr. Loren Yager
Managing Director
International Affairs and Trade
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548-0001

Dear Dr. Yager:

We appreciate the opportunity to review your draft report, "SECURITY ASSISTANCE: Evaluations Needed to Determine Effectiveness of U.S. Aid to Lebanon's Security Forces" GAO Job Code 320918.

The enclosed Department of State comments are provided for incorporation with this letter as an appendix to the final report.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Todd Gobeille, Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Political and Military Affairs at (202) 663-1271.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James L. Millette".

James L. Millette

cc: GAO – Charles M. Johnson
PM – Andrew J. Shapiro
State/OIG – Evelyn Klemstine

Department of State Comments on GAO Draft Report

**SECURITY ASSISTANCE: Evaluations Needed to Determine Effectiveness
of U.S. Aid to Lebanon's Security Forces**
(GAO-13-289, GAO Code 320918)

The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the GAO draft report entitled "*Security Assistance: Evaluations Needed to Determine Effectiveness of U.S. Aid to Lebanon's Security Forces.*"

As noted in the report, U.S. security assistance programs serve several important goals, including assisting the Government of Lebanon to establish sovereignty and counter extremists. More specifically, the U.S. designed the Lebanese security assistance program to advance U.S. foreign policy goals of promoting Lebanon's stability; implement United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1559 and 1701; counter terrorism; and advance the extension of Lebanese government control throughout the country – especially in the south, along the border, and in Palestinian refugee camps. While the Department agrees with the GAO's finding that evaluations would improve our ability to determine the effectiveness of our security assistance, the qualitative versus quantitative nature of security assistance makes formal evaluation of such programs a unique challenge. Lebanon is a good example wherein our security assistance program involves complex program goals, and thereby requires a carefully designed evaluation framework.

Short of formal program evaluation relative to Lebanon, we rely on feedback from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and DoD implementers to shape Department-provided military assistance. The GAO report notes that the LAF conducts periodic Joint Capabilities Reviews (JCR) with the U.S. Government, to include the Department of State. These reviews provide critical assessments of Lebanese security capabilities. The Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM) leverages these assessments, along with Mission Resource Requests from Embassy Beirut and capability assessments from U.S. Central Command, to support security assistance funding allocations for FMF each year. Additionally, the Department completes an annual Performance Plan and Report of all its programs in Lebanon, and many of the Department's individual assistance programs have evaluation criteria and indicators built into their implementing mechanisms. In short, the Department uses all available information to inform the direction of our civilian and military assistance programs. We believe that these

2

reviews provide a limited, but significant, evaluative role in determining the effectiveness of our assistance.

With respect to the Department's Evaluation Policy, State, as the lead institution for the conduct of American diplomacy, is committed to using performance management best practices, including where feasible, program evaluation, to achieve the most effective U.S. foreign policy outcomes and greater accountability to our primary stakeholders. The assistance we provide to Lebanon's security forces is no exception. We recognize that a robust, coordinated and targeted evaluation function is essential to the ability of the Department to measure and monitor program performance; make decisions for programmatic adjustments and changes; document program impact; identify best practices and lessons learned; help assess return on investment; provide inputs for policy, planning and budget decisions; and assure accountability to the American people.

The Department established its evaluation policy in February 2012, and as the report points out, the PM Bureau is developing a global monitoring and evaluation plan to cover its programs. The FMF and IMET accounts managed by the PM Bureau, and implemented by DoD, provided over \$6.4 billion in assistance to 138 countries in FY 2012 alone. Given the scope of our activities, anticipated size of our global evaluation efforts, and the need to secure resources in order to conduct evaluations, the PM Bureau has committed to begin these activities in FY 2014. Although we are still in the process of developing a multi-year monitoring and evaluation plan, we recognize Lebanon as an eligible evaluation target, in accordance with State policy. This plan will include performance indicators that are specific, measureable, and outcome-oriented.

The Department appreciates the GAO's recommendations for enhancing our assistance programs in Lebanon, concurs with the recommendations suggested, and will continue to improve program evaluation efforts.

Appendix V: Comments from the Department of Defense



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

Mr. Charles Johnson, Jr.
Director, Defense Capabilities and Management
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G ST, N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This is the Department of Defense response to the GAO Draft Report, GAO -12-289, "Security Assistance: Evaluations Needed to Determine Effectiveness of U.S. Aid to Lebanon's Security Forces," dated February 5, 2013 (GAO Code 320918). Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the GAO draft report.

The Department of Defense generally concurs in the recommendations of the report, as explained in the enclosed comments. In the future, we request that the GAO extend to us the courtesy of a formal out brief prior to releasing the draft report to the Congress. The POC for the following is the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Spence
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Middle East)

Enclosure:
As stated



GAO DRAFT REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2013
GAO-12-289 (GAO CODE 320918)

Security Assistance: Evaluations Needed to Determine Effectiveness of U.S. Aid to Lebanon's Security
Forces

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COMMENTS
TO THE GAO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, complete plans to evaluate the effectiveness of security assistance programs in Lebanon, including milestone dates for implementing the plans.

DoD Response: Concur. The Department of Defense (DoD) will coordinate with the Department of State to evaluate the effectiveness of Lebanon's security forces with clear metrics that can be evaluated and communicated back to Congress.

Recommendation 3: Secretary of Defense develop performance indicators for DoD's security assistance programs for Lebanon that are specific, measurable, and outcome-oriented.

DoD Response: Concur. DoD will improve assessment and evaluation metrics as suggested by the report, including reviewing metrics established to measure the results of assistance provided under Section 1206 and Section 1207 authority. The GAO report noted the difficulty of creating performance indicators that effectively measure DoD's security assistance programs. Part of the difficulty in establishing these indicators is due to force protection restrictions on U.S. military personnel, limiting engagement with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). DoD will work with the Department of State to address these limitations. Not indicated in the GAO Report are DoD's current evaluating programs that utilize key baseline documents like the Joint Capabilities Review. The Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) and others also routinely assess and evaluate security assistance programs in a holistic context. As a result, the performance of the LAF has improved as demonstrated by their ability to prevent civil war in Syria from spreading into Lebanon.

Appendix VI: GAO Contact and Staff Acknowledgments

GAO Contact

Charles Michael Johnson, Jr., 202-512-7331, or johnsoncm@gao.gov

Staff Acknowledgments

In addition to the contact named above, Jeff Phillips (Assistant Director); Jenna Beveridge; Teakoe S. Coleman; David Dayton; and La Verne Tharpes made key contributions to this report. Martin de Alteriis, Grace Lui, and Jeremy Sebest provided additional technical assistance.

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